GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1621
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
WATER SCARCITY IN TAMIL NADU
SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of perennial water scarcity in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to interlink the perennial rivers of other States with the dry rivers in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) In the State of Tamil Nadu there are eight districts covering an area of 84091 sq. km. viz. Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari which have been identified as drought prone out of total 99 drought prone districts in the country. The Union Government had, in 1980, formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Planand to prepare feasibility report of the links. Under Peninsular Component of the National Perspective Plan, inter- linking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauveryand Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar is envisaged to provide irrigation benefits to the State of Tamil Nadu. NWDA has taken up preparation of feasibility report of these links. Implementation of water transfer link proposal depend on availability of funds and how soon the detailed project report are prepared after consensus is reached among the concerned States.